

OVERVIEW

During the COVID-19 response, local government Bylaw Enforcement Departments have been asked to provide assistance for compliance of COVID-19 public health orders. Bylaw Enforcement staff are not empowered to enforce (i.e. ticket or detain) with respect to public health orders. Their role is to provide assistance only when called upon by a Health Officer pursuant to section 90 of the *Public Health Act*.

KEY FACTS

What are the relevant public health orders in effect as of April 6, 2020?

- **Mass Gatherings:** Prohibits anyone responsible for any space (indoor or outdoor) from permitting the gathering of more than 50 people.
- **Travelers:** Requires everyone in BC, other than essential workers, who travelled outside of Canada on or after March 12 or has returned to Canada after March 12 to remain at their home, hotel, or similar place for 14 days, except for essential activities. Ask for assistance from others to secure necessary groceries and supplies.
- **Premises where food/drink/liquor is prepared and or served or where liquor is sold:** Limits service to take out or delivery, with customers on the premises only long enough to purchase and collect their purchase. Requires owner/operator to ensure that when there are people on the premises, there is sufficient space to enable them to maintain a distance of 2 metres from one another. No more than 50 people present at one time (not applicable to grocery stores that can meet social distancing requirements (2m spacing) while accommodating a greater number of people).
- **Personal Service Establishments:** Closed until further notice as these require direct personal contact with other people and that is impossible to deliver while maintaining appropriate distance (salons, spas, massage parlors, tattoo shops and others).

Is there a public health order regarding physical distancing?

There are no public health orders addressed to the general public requiring them to maintain physical distancing outside their own homes, with the exception of inside food premises. The Bylaw Enforcement Department can provide strong recommendations and guidance but cannot revoke a business licence for not adhering to the physical distancing recommendation, with the exception of inside food premises.

What will the Bylaw Enforcement Department do if a complaint is received?

The Province has adopted and implemented a graduated compliance and enforcement approach that generally starts with providing information, education and advice as the first step, with escalating enforcement only as required. If a complaint is received, the Bylaw Enforcement Department will:

1. Speak with a person responsible for the business or premise;
2. Provide information on what the Order is and why it needs to be complied with;
3. If the business agrees to comply, then monitor for compliance;
4. If the business or facility is not complying, let them know the situation will be escalated;
5. Notify the relevant Health Officer.

WHO TO CONTACT

Questions for City staff? Contact the Bylaw Enforcement Department at 250-746-6126.
